

children, one of whom was Rev. Robert Hett Chapman, D.D., who is buried in the cemetery of the Presbyterian Church at Asheville, N. C.

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REV. ELISHA MITCHELL, D.D.

On two occasions Dr. Mitchell was, as Chairman of the Faculty, virtually head of the University, *i. e.*, during President Caldwell's visit to Europe in 1824, and after his death on January 24, 1835, until the coming of President Swain, January 1, 1836.

Elisha Mitchell was born in Washington, Litchfield County, Connecticut, August 19, 1793. His father was a farmer, Abner by name. His mother was Phoebe Eliot, a descendant of the "Apostle to the Indians," John Eliot. His great-grandfather, Rev. Jared Eliot, was eminent in science and received a medal from the Royal Society of London for a discovery in the manufacture of iron. He was prepared for college by Rev. Azel Bachus, D. D., a skilful teacher, afterward President of Hamilton College. Entering Yale College he graduated in 1813 among the highest in scholarship. Senator Geo. E. Badger, Dr. Denison Olmstead, President James Longstreet, Thomas P. Devereux, Esq., were among his classmates. He then taught in Dr. Eigenbrodt's school on Long Island. In 1815 he was Principal of a school for girls in New London. The next year he was a Tutor in Yale College, and in 1817, through the recommendation of Wm. Gaston, then member of Congress, a member of the Board of Trustees, who knew of his merits by the testimony of a son of President Timothy Dwight, then chaplain to the Senate, he was elected, in 1817, Professor of Mathematics in this University. He entered on his duties in February, 1818.

Before leaving Connecticut he took a short course at the Theological Seminary in Andover, Massachusetts, and obtained a license to preach. He afterwards, in 1821, was ordained a minister of the Presbyterian Church by the Presbytery of Orange, in North Carolina, and was for years a regular preacher, without compensation, in the University chapel and in the village church.

In 1825 Dr. Denison Olmstead resigned his chair of Chemistry, Geology and Mineralogy, and accepted similar work in Yale College. Dr. Mitchell, although a skilled mathematician, had a keener love for Natural Science. The Trustees readily consented to transfer him to Olmstead's vacant chair, electing Dr. James Phillips Professor of Mathematics. He was thus in charge of the Natural Sciences for thirty-two years.